



POWERING THE FIGHT

LESSONS FROM THE GRID AT WAR



Over the last half century, technological innovations have transformed modern warfare and intertwined U.S. military operations with the reliability and durability of the U.S. power grid.

While these advancements in defense capabilities have strengthened the U.S. security posture in many ways, the current electric grid poses a severe vulnerability.

As the commercial power grid faces the largest increase in electricity demand in two decades, defense leaders must work across the federal government and with industry to ensure that the grid is capable of serving the U.S. military's needs should it be called on to fight a major war.

- 1 Prioritize interregional transmission** to redirect surplus power to areas of the nation experiencing shortfalls.
- 2 Foster interagency collaboration** for coordinated engagement across critical defense and energy agencies.
- 3 Emphasize defense critical electric infrastructure** as the focal point for DOE and U.S. Military engagement with grid planners.
- 4 Strengthen public-private financing** for transmission expansion with financial instruments to derisk investment and reduce ratepayer burden.
- 5 Support a flexible, efficient, and lean grid** through federal investment in innovative grid technologies to maximize current infrastructure.
- 6 Build installation loads into grid planning** to ensure utilities and grid operators have sufficient capacity for defense needs.

“The history of the two great world wars has proved dramatically the vital part of electric power: literally speaking, those who won had enough; those who lost, not enough. It will be equally true in any future conflict in which we may be forced to engage.”

– Walker Cisler, Founding Member of the National Academy of Engineering